



GUIDE TO THE MARK MCSHANE COLLECTION

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Title:	Mark McShane Papers
Collection dates:	[1969-1981]
Creator:	Mark McShane
Languages represented:	English
Repository:	Rare Books and Special Collections, University of Sydney Library https://library.sydney.edu.au/collections/rare-books/
Extent:	2 boxes
Genre and Forms:	Manuscripts, style sheets, galley proofs, notes and correspondence.
Abstract:	The Mark McShane collection of personal papers comprises seven sets of his manuscripts, notes, and style guides relating to crime and suspense fiction novels. The material includes drafts of the seven novels at various stages in the editing process in addition to letters and ephemera regarding their writing and publishing.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Provenance

This material was purchased from Mark McShane by the University of Sydney Library circa 1981.

Access

Rare Books and Special Collections is a closed access collection located on Level 1 of Fisher Library. Please make an appointment to use material from Rare Books and Special Collections using the online request form at <https://library.sydney.edu.au/collections/rare-books/request-form.html>

Staff will retrieve the material for you which must be read under supervision in the Rare Books Reading Room. You must provide identification (eg. University of Sydney library card, driver's license, passport) while you are using the material.

Copyright information

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Preferred citation

Mark McShane collection, Rare Books and Special Collections, the University of Sydney Library.

Biographical note

Born in Sydney on 28 November 1929, Mark McShane was educated in Blackpool, Lancashire between 1935 and 1945. After travelling the world during his early life, he settled in Mallorca, Spain to become an author of crime, suspense, and satire novels, with his first work, *The Straight and the Crooked*, being published that same year. In 1963 he married Pamela Rosemary Armstrong, with whom he had four children.

His best-known work, *Seance on a Wet Afternoon*, was published in 1964 and subsequently adapted into opera and film. Many of his novels were also published under the pseudonym of Marc Lovell, including a series of comedic spy novels featuring Appleton Porter. His final novel, *Mourning Becomes the Hangman*, was published in 1991. He died in Mallorca on 28 August 2013, having published 51 works.

Scope and content note

Mark McShane Papers comprises seven sets of material, each pertaining to one book written by Mark McShane, between the 1960s and the early 1980s.

Local Catalogue Headings

Mark McShane

Marc Lovell [pseudonym]

DESCRIPTION OF SERIES

Box 1

- Item 1** Correspondence received by Miss Thelma Herring, as an employee of the Department of English at the University of Sydney, from Mrs Margaret Trist. [10]
- Correspondence from Ronald MacKenzie to Mrs Margaret Trist regarding the return of letters written by Mrs Trist to MacKenzie's cousin, Miss Thelma Herring, following her death, with enclosed bookplate.
- Correspondence from Mrs Margaret Trist to the Officer-in-Charge of Archives at Fisher Library regarding a series of letters in the possession of Miss Thelma Herring at the time of her death.
- Item 2** Handwritten book form for 'Seance for Two'
- Item 3** Typed and handwritten edited chapter manuscripts labelled 1-10; the first is labelled March 24. [10]
- Item 4** Envelope labelled 'Séance for Two galley due 6/23'
- Typed draft manuscript with marginalia for 'Seance for Two'
- Item 5** Original manuscript of screenplay for 'Seance for Two'
- Item 6** Top copy and notes for 'The Blind Hypnotist'
- Item 7** Envelope labelled 'Blind Hypnotist Galleys Due 1/16'
- Style sheet for 'The Blind Hypnotist'
- Typed draft manuscript with marginalia for 'The Blind Hypnotist'
- Item 8** Brown card envelope addressed to Mark and Rosemary McShane, labelled in pen with 'Dreamers In A Haunted House M.S.'
- Handwritten notes dated to 1982 regarding material cut from a manuscript
- Handwritten notes and manuscript on the reverse of an edited typed manuscript
- Item 9** Typed draft manuscript with marginalia for 'And They Say You Can't Buy Happiness'

Box 2

- Item 10** Chapter notes for 'And They Say You Can't Buy Happiness'

Edited handwritten and typed chapter manuscripts labelled 1-8 for 'And They Say You Can't Buy Happiness' [8]
- Item 11** Style sheet for 'Dreamers in a Haunted House'

Typed draft manuscript with marginalia for 'Dreamers in a Haunted House'
- Item 12** Final galley proof for 'Dreamers in a Haunted House'
- Item 13** Letter to Mark McShane from Arleen Buchanan on behalf of Michele Tempesta regarding the return of galleys and manuscript for 'Dreamers in a Haunted House'
- Item 14** Chapter notes for 'Lashed But Not Leashed'

Photograph of Mark McShane by Andrew Valente
- Item 15** Envelope labelled 'Lashed But Not Leashed copy of M.S. Galley due 7/2'

Style sheet for 'Lashed But Not Leashed'

Typed and handwritten manuscript for 'Lashed But Not Leashed'
- Item 16** Handwritten manuscript for 'Lashed But Not Leashed' written on the reverse of a typed manuscript
- Item 17** Letter from Mark McShane to Jennifer Alison regarding the possibility of the Library acquiring McShane's manuscript

List of manuscripts by Mark McShane

Photocopied pages from 'Twentieth Century Crime and Mystery Writers', (1980) pertaining to publications by Mark McShane.
- Item 18** Draft manuscript with marginalia for 'The Singular Case of the Multiple Dead'
- Item 19** Draft manuscript and notes for 'The Singular Case of the Multiple Dead'